

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LOME 01571 112041Z
ACTION AF-10

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R 111615Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY LOME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4138

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STADIS////////////////////////////////

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: AORG
SUBJ: AID REGIONAL AUDIT OFFICE WANTS TO MOVE TO LOME

1. MR JON GIVEN, ACTING AID AREA AUDITOR (ACTING AAG/AFR), HAS PRESENTED THE AMBASSADOR WITH A PROPOSAL TO TRANSFER CERTAIN AID AUDITORS PRESENTLY STATIONED IN ACCRA TO LOME. SPECIFICALLY, HE PROPOSES TO TRANSFER THREE THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONAL EMPLOYEES TO LOME IN JULY WHEN THE ACCRA OFFICE IS SCHEDULED TO CLOSE. A FEW MONTHS AFTER THAT, TWO AMERICAN AUDITORS AND A SECRETARY WOULD BE ESTABLISHED IN LOME. FURTHER EXPANSION COULD BE EXPECTED LATER.

2. THE AMBASSADOR INFORMED MR GIVEN THAT THE INITIATIVE FOR THE TRANSFER OF AID OFFICERS TO LOME SHOULD COME FROM WASHINGTON. HE WAS PREPARED TO CONSIDER SYMPATHETICALLY SUCH A REQUEST BUT PREFERABLY IN THE FRAMEWORK OF LONG RANGE PLANNING FOR THE POSSIBLE UTILIZATION OF LOME AS A BASE FOR REGIONAL SUPPORT OFFICES. THE EMBASSY HAD ALREADY SUBMITTED PRELIMINARY THOUGHTS ON THE PROBLEMS SUCH A POLICY WOULD INVOLVE IN THE FORM OF A MEMORANDUM TO THE DIRECTOR OF AF/W. IF LOME WERE TO BECOME A BASE FOR REGIONAL SUPPORT OFFICES, THE ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION WOULD NEED TO BE STRENGTHENED, STEPS WOULD HAVE TO BE TAKEN TO OBTAIN
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PAGE 02 LOME 01571 112041Z

ACCESS TO HOUSING SUITABLE FOR AMERICANS, GOVERNMENT OF TOGO APPROVAL WOULD HAVE TO BE SOUGHT, AND OTHER POSSIBLE ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS SUCH AS THE CAPACITY OF THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL TO SUPPORT A LARGER STUDENT POPULATION WOULD HAVE TO BE STUDIED. WE HOPED TO AVOID A SITUATION WHERE INDIVIDUAL REGIONAL UNITS WOULD BE TRANSFERRED TO LOME WITHOUT ANY OVERALL PLANNING. WE COULD UNDERSTAND WHY

LOME WAS AN ATTRACTIVE SITE FOR REGIONALLY BASED ACTIVITIES;
HOWEVER, WITHOUT CAREFUL PLANNING, THESE ADVANGATES WOULD
LARGELY DISAPPEAR AND UNNECESSARY PROBLEMS WOULD BE CREATED.

3. THE AMBASSADOR WILL BE IN WASHINGTON FOR CONSULTATIONS
AROUND MAY 17 AND WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS THE IMPLICATIONS OF
THIS PROPOSED MOVE WITH THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF AF/EX.
PALMER

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